

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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P 131305Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5403

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 1227

EXDIS

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH SHAH

1. DURING AUDIENCE ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 13, SHAH COVERED, INTER ALIA, THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

(A) DENTAL WORK IN ZURICH HAD KEPT HIM IN SWITZERLAND TWO DAYS LONGER THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED, THUS HIS ARRIVAL IN TEHRAN THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 12.

(B) COMMENTING ON IRAQI EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT ASSOCIATION WITH SYRIA, HE STATED THAT THE COMING INTO BEING OF A RED CRESCENT INSTEAD OF THE GREEN OR FERTILE CRESCENT WOULD BE QUOTE THE WORST THING WHICH COULD HAPPEN IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD UNQUOTE. HE IS AWARE THAT THE IRAQI BA'ATH HAVE BEEN PRESSURING THE SYRIAN BA'ATH WHERE THERE IS A CERTAIN BLOC IN FAVOR OF UNION WITH IRAQ. HE STATED HE WAS

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ALSO AWARE THAT SOME SYRIANS THOUGHT THEY COULD OUT-THINK AND OUT-MANEUVER THOSE QUOTE BARBARIANS UNQUOTE FROM IRAQ, BUT THE SHAH HIMSELF EXPRESSED REAL DOUBT ON THIS SCORE. HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE OCTOBER WAR IRAQI FORCES WERE

ENGAGED AGAINST THE ISRAELIS AND THAT DURING THIS PERIOD THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE INCIDENT ON THE BORDER WITH IRAN. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SHAH CONTENDS THAT THE IRAQIS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IRANIAN GOOD WILL WHEN THEY NEED TO AND CAUSE THEM UNENDING TROUBLES WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES ARE RELATIVELY NORMAL.

(C) IN A RATHER SURPRISING QUESTION HE ASKED IF THE UNITED STATES HAD DECIDED TO UNDERMINE KING HUSSEIN'S REGIME IN JORDAN AND CREATE A GOVERNMENTLESS DESERT SO THAT A PALESTINIAN STATE COULD BE CREATED. I LOOKED AT HIM IN ASTONISHMENT AND REMONSTRATED RATHER FORCEFULLY ABOUT OUR UNDERTAKINGS TO KING HUSSEIN. THE SHAH SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS, SAID THAT HE ACCEPTED MY ASSURANCES, THEN SHOULDER-SHRUGGING BEING ACCOMPANIED BY A COMMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT GREAT POWERS OFTEN WERE OBLIGED TO CHANGE THEIR COMMITMENTS. HE THEN SAID QUOTE THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE MEANS THE END OF SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT UNQUOTE. HE THEN MUSED ABOUT THE RADICAL ASPECTS OF THE FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT AND HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED WITH IT WHO IS EVEN SOMEWHAT MODERATE.

(D) ON THE SUBJECT OF EGYPT, THE SHAH COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT SADAT WAS DOING SURPRISINGLY WELL AND THAT WHAT HE WAS

DOING HAD THE SHAH'S 100 PERCENT APPROVAL. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PUT THIS IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE DAILY TELEGRAPH BUT THAT FOR SOME REASON IT HAD BEEN CROPPED OUT. HE ADDED THAT IN A TV INTERVIEW WITH NBC WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR ON FEBRUARY 24, HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED HIS 100 PERCENT APPROVAL OF WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT WAS DOING AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD APPEAR ON THE PROGRAM.

(E) STATING THAT WITTEVEEN OF IMF AND MCNAMARA OF IBRD WOULD BE COMING TO TEHRAN LATER THIS MONTH, THE SHAH SAID THAT HE
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IS GOING TO CONTRIBUTE QUOTE A LOT OF MONEY UNQUOTE TO BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. HE PHILOSOPHIZED THAT HE HAD A COUNTRY OF 32 MILLION PEOPLE AND THAT EVEN THOUGH HIS CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY LARGE, IT WOULD BE NOTHING ANYTHING COMPARED TO THAT OF WHICH KING FAISAL WAS CAPABLE. IN THE SHAH'S OPINION FAISAL COULD CONTRIBUTE QUOTE TEN TIMES UNQUOTE AS MUCH AS IRAN.

(F) TOWARD THE END OF THE AUDIENCE THE SHAH FOR A MOMENT PHILOSOPHIZED ABOUT CONDITIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE. HE MUSED ABOUT THE FLACCID CONDITION OF THESE GOVERNMENTS AND WONDERED OUT LOUD WHETHER THE AREA AS WE KNOW IT NOW WOULD LAST THREE YEARS, FIVE YEARS, OR MORE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP MUST GENUINELY BE TEMPTED TO UNDERTAKE AN ADVENTURE WHEN

IT SEES THE SAD STATE OF EUROPE.

HELMS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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